

Per E. G. McCarthy

Hello, Wisconsin

Sales Tax Is Here;

Can the People Now Have Any Respect for Party Platforms?

The following address was delivered over Radio Station WIBA on Sunday, Feb. 4, 1962, by William T. Evjue.

Mr. Evjue is heard every Sunday over WIBA (1310 Kil.) at 11:30 p.m. over WOKY, Milwaukee, at 10 p.m., over WMAM, Marinette, at 12 noon, over WKTY, La Crosse, at 3:30 p.m., over WATK, Anigo, at 12 noon, over WJMC, Rice Lake, at 12:45 p.m. over WFHR, Wisconsin Rapids, at 12:15 p.m., over WDSM, Superior-Duluth, at 12:15 p.m., over WATW, Ashland, at 12:15 p.m. over WIGM, Medford, at 12:30 p.m., over WEAU, Eau Claire, at 12:45 p.m., over WLIN, Merrill, at 12:45 p.m., over WSAU, Wausau, at 12:45 p.m., over WBAY (1360 Kil.), Green Bay, at 12:15 p.m., over WCOW, Sparta (1270 Kil.), at 12:35 p.m., and over WLIP, Kenosha, at 12:45 p.m.

HELLO WISCONSIN! Last week the first big sales tax in Wisconsin's history went into effect. The people of Wisconsin are now paying a sales tax. What has happened to representative government in these days? The people of Wisconsin were never consulted on whether they wanted a sales tax. They were given to understand that there would be no sales tax. The Republican party platform of 1960 was silent on the sales tax issue, though it was the biggest issue in the state. The Democratic platform specifically pledged:

"We are opposed to the enactment of a general sales tax in Wisconsin for whatever purpose and whatever form."

Yet a Republican legislature passed the sales tax and a Democratic governor signed it. Is this representative government?

Democrats Not Living Up To Pledges on Taxing Co-ops

TAKE A LOOK AT THE PLATFORM pledges being honored in Washington. The 1960 Democratic platform takes a firm stand against the drive on the part of big business interests to cripple or destroy the co-operative movement by imposing punitive taxes on the co-ops, particularly on the refunds made to co-op members. The platform says:

"We will protect co-operatives from punitive taxation."

During the campaign the President underscored this platform pledge with a personal promise as follows:

"The next Democratic administration will not approve any proposal to levy punitive taxes on co-op refunds. I know the co-ops seek no special privileges. Neither should they be placed under any special disabilities."

Co-op people were astounded when the President in his economic message to Congress attacked what he called "unwarranted tax privileges" of co-operatives and called for legislation to change their tax status. While the President was calling for new taxes on the co-ops he was notably silent about the very real tax privileges enjoyed by the powerful oil interests. For years the oil interests have been given what is called a depletion allowance which gives them a 27 1/2 per cent exemption on their earnings. This has meant millions for the oil industry and its powerful lobby that has been able to defeat every effort to plug this loophole.

Kennedy Has Done Nothing About Taxing the Oil Crowd

THE 1960 DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM also recognized this problem in this pledge:

"We shall close the loopholes in the tax laws by which certain privileged groups legally escape taxation. Among conspicuous loopholes are depletion allowances which are inequitable."

But the President had nothing to say about the tax privileges of the oil barons who are out to cripple the co-operatives. The promise to tax the oil interests is forgotten, because such legislation would be embarrassing to Vice-President Johnson who has represented the oil crowd in Congress. Also forgotten is the promise to protect the co-ops against the oil barons and other private interest groups who are out to destroy the co-ops by punitive taxation. Is this representative government?

What is most disturbing about the trend is the failure of the liberals to protest. The liberals in Congress are too concerned about personal political considerations to make a fight for principle.